



In this article, I want to provide an update on our plans for summer training and inform you of one of the many initiatives we are working for the Army and for our sister services: publication of *The Armed Forces Officer*.

While the summer training periods are physically and mentally tougher, and more connected to the Army, than perhaps they have ever been, we remain committed to constantly examining and improving our programs to ensure our cadets are educated, trained and inspired to lead Soldiers when they are commissioned.

Last year, we made the Lake Frederick phase of CBT and all of CFT a weapons-immersion environment, in which cadets kept their weapons with them round the clock. This teaches them familiarity and comfort with the weapon and simulates the environment they will find when they deploy.

This year, we're establishing Camp Buckner as a Forward Operating Base, which is what they will experience in the Basic Officer Leader Course after graduation and simulates the way our Army is deployed in the field today.

We also are changing our capstone exercise for CFT, Operation Highland Warrior (OHW), to train missions our cadets will see and do after they are commissioned. In the new training schedule, a cadet company will rotate through six different missions, each 48 hours long: convoy reaction drills, cordon and search missions, search and attack missions, access control point, live-fire ambush, and quick reaction force. The cadet regimental staff will control each of the companies going through the training, issuing operations orders and FRAGOs and coordinating logistics and movements. In turn, the cadet staff will be mentored and coached by the Department of Military Instruction and the Brigade Tactical Department.

A visitor to Cadet Field Training this summer will also see a number of Arabic speakers at the various training sites—a mix of DFL instructors, contracted native speakers, and some cadets who are majoring in Arabic. This will lend a greater sense

of realism to the training, as our cadets will literally have to work through translators to communicate with the "locals." Our cadets also will get an introduction to the customs, dress and conduct of a completely foreign culture.

Over the course of the last several months, we also examined the CBT and CFT schedules for ways to use our time and resources more effectively. We reviewed the training in CFT against what the Army tells us we must do and eliminated some redundancies and re-sequenced other events. The end result is that we have shortened CFT (Camp Buckner) by about six days while making it a better training experience. I can assure you that it remains challenging and provides meaningful and realistic leader development opportunities for all cadets.

We also decided to move the end-of-CBT encampment to Camp Buckner from Lake Frederick. Camp Buckner is more centrally located to the training areas the new cadets use and will improve the encampment for the new cadets. We can then spend more time training them and less time transporting them to and from training sites. To forestall your questions, the new cadets will not occupy the barracks; they will set up their tents on the parade field south of Lake Popolopen. The marchback this summer also will be the same length as the marchback from Lake Frederick in past summers.

Finally, our cadets will begin receiving the new Army Combat Uniform this summer. The Class of '10 will receive four uniform sets and two pair of boots in Cadet Basic Training. The upper classes will receive two uniforms sets and one pair of boots in the fall term. It is important for our cadets to know they are a part of the Army, and wearing the same field uniform as our active Soldiers are wearing is key.

These are only a few of many modifications, but I think they give you an idea of how we strive to keep CBT and CFT current and relevant.

I also want to inform you of a significant contribution to the development of our cadets and officers. The Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic recently

completed a joint effort with our sister service academies to update and publish a new version of *The Armed Forces Officer*. This update, the fifth

overall, is a successor to the series of handbooks, begun by S. L. A. Marshall, for General George C. Marshall, and first published by all services in 1950.

In fall 2002, General Larry Ellis, then-CG of Forces Command, asked BG Leo Brooks to have West Point take the lead in writing a new version. The Simon Center marshaled a team of writers representing the three service academies, obtained support from the Joint Staff J7, and began writing a draft of a new handbook, written "in the spirit of S. L. A. Marshall." The new draft retains Marshall's first chapter on "The Meaning of Your Commission" as an appendix. Though dated in expression and references, this original chapter remains an inspirational charge to new officers.

In January 2006, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, GEN Pace, signed the new draft, and it is now out for publication by the J7. You soon will be able find a link to it on my USMA web page at <<http://www.usma.edu/USCC/comscorner.htm>>.

Each cadet will receive a copy of this new publication in the next academic year, and we will incorporate it into our Professional Military Ethic Education program, to engage our cadets in discussions on what it means to be an officer and our unique roles and responsibilities in a democratic society.

Even with this influx of information and experience from the Army, we cannot rest on our laurels and trust them to do our work for us. We continue to improve, adapt, and revise our military training and science, and our leader development programs, to ensure we continue to produce the finest officers for the world's best Army. Our Nation demands, and our Soldiers deserve, the best leaders possible.

Go Army!

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